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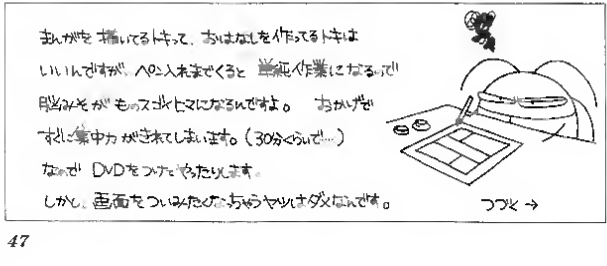
Chapter 2

たのしい〆切前（その③）

おしまい

A rural village constantly troubled by depopulation and a greater number of older individuals without successors
A unique sight, a tranquil scene encircled by mountains
Kanya Days
They say, if a man handed a frog to a woman there, it would serve as a marriage proposal.
At this village, old customs remain;
Between two rocks called "The Married Couple's Frog Rock,"
It was terribly strange, but...

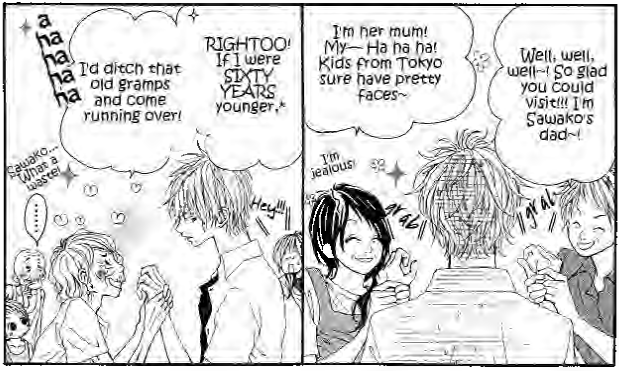

まんがを描いてるトキって、おはなしを作ってるトキは
いいんですが、ペン入れまでくると 単純作業になるので
脱みそがものスゴクヒマになるんですよ。 おかげで
すぐに集中力が途切れてしまいます。(30分くらいで…)
なので DVDをつけてやったりします。
しかし、画面をついみたくなるおそうヤツは ダメなんです。
つづく →

SAWAKO YAMADA, THE VILLAGE GIRL WHO RECEIVED THE FROG WAS TOTALLY CAPTIVATED
SHINICHIROU OKATA WHO RECENTLY MOVED FROM THE METROPOLIS, TOKYO
HE DID IT NONETHELESS
COMPLETELY NONCHALANT ABOUT HIS MISFORTUNE,
THE DAYS OF SUFFERING HAVE JUST BEGUN
SINCE THEN, HE HAS BEEN CHASED AROUND BY SAWAKO DAY AND NIGHT
reveal
AND TODAY IS NO EXCEPTION...
SMILE
SMILE
.....

Koi Koi Country Road
GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. I'M THE GECKO LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIVE IN THIS AREA
I'LL CONTINUE WITH MY SUMMARY AND EXPLAIN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES
Hey—?!
Please!!! Dinner will be magnificent—!!!
Hun—! Wate, wate!
I'm going back
I think
hiss
I WANT TO GO BACK.
YOUNG OGATA WAS DRAGGED HERE AGAINST HIS WILL
IN OTHER WORDS,
BAD PREMONITION
please
ORDERED HER TO BRING OVER "HER HUSBAND/THEIR SON-IN-LAW"
THE YAMADA HOUSEHOLD WHO HEARD OF OGATA-KUN'S PROPOSAL TO SAWAKO (OF SO IT TURNED OUT)...
please
slide
I'M BACK~~! AND I'VE BROUGHT HIM WITH ME~~!
I'm going back after al—

WELCOME TO THE YAMADA HOUSEHOLD SON-IN-LAW/ HUSBAND!

PREMONITION, SPOT-ON


a ha ha ha ha
I'd ditch that old gramps and come running over!
RIGHTOO! If I were SIXTY YEARS younger,*
Sawako... What a waste!
Hey!!!
I'm her mum! My— Ha ha ha! Kids from Tokyo sure have pretty faces~
Well, well, well~! So glad you could visit!!! I'm Sawako's dad~!
I'm jealous!
GYAU
GYAU

* THE KANSAI DIALECT IS USED AT THIS POINT, IT IS STEREOTYPICALLY MORE CRUDE

I'm going back upstairs!
Wait up—! I almost forgot!!
Kaa-san! The camera, the camera!!
A photo to commemorate the event!
CLATTER
A photo!?
Everyone line up in the garden!
CLATTER
OKay!
The camera's this way, Gramps!
Granny! That should be my spot!
Ah— hey granny! What're you doing!
There's disagreement
I've set the timer—!
Get ready, get ready—!
splash
flutter
Alright! Here we go—!
freeze
CLICK
Disturbed

rattle
Okay, here we are~
Right! This way, this way!
Make yourself comfortable in Sawako's room!
dinner will be ready in an hour
Well
!!
Sit wherever you want!
Click
chirp
ribbit
DUN
DUN
croak
croak
DUNNN
chirp
chirp

!
STARTLE
Huh? Where
Oh yeah, that's right! Hey—
More like some teen idle boys room From the Showa period
...Is ...Is this the room of a high school girl ?
Ahahal Sorry, sorry! Were you surpri sed? Isn't Shiro bebi cute!
gasp
JAPANESE RAT SNAKE (ALBINO)
ELAPHE CL MACROPHOA FREE TO ROAM WHEREVER HE PLEASES
kiss
cool feeling
!!!!
I wanted to give you something in return for the bracelet you gave me the other day
Here, take this!
This is my treasure. I entrust it to you.
DON'T LET SNAKES SLITHER AROUND!!!
You'll be fine—no need to worry
Don't come any closer!
Ah!
Found it!
Let's start

I don't get i—
STAG BEETLE LARVA
(COLEOPTEROUS CLASS)
FORCUS HOPEI BINOTULUS
I don't really want anything in return though.
And why is your treasured item, coffee?
smile
smile
CAFE
jewel
proud
There's no misreading it. That little guy will be the best No. 1 in all of stag beetle history!
I was very impressed when I found it!
In a city department store, he'd fetch an earth-shattering price.
Why the heck would I want a larva?!
Are you stupid?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!!
YOU ARE REALLY DISGUSTING!!!
It was a precious creature from protected species too!
THR
slide
glint
OW

wa ha ha ha ha
Cheers~~!!!
Huh?
Sob... sob...
Stag Beetle...
sob...
whimper
Why are you crying, Sawako?
No, this will do...
Hm? You're not drinking Shinichirou-kun?
Her brain just broke.
Even when he's broken she's not any different from normal is she!
You really are serious, huh~?
Wa ha ha! Geisen-chan! Wonderful!
100% juice

She found a terrific husband so quickly!
I used to worry no one would receive her as a bride but—
That's right! This kid chased bugs and frogs since she was younger—just like a little boy—!
Well~ Who thought Sawako would catch a husband like you and even bring you back!
blunt
I never said anything about receiving her as my bride.
Truth is, this old gramps also proposed to me in the same way—
I'm remembering all of it now—
Hush!
a ha ha ha ha
Come now~! You proposed at the "Married Couple Frog Rock" How cool~~!

Come to think of it, Shinichirou-kun,
What made you move to the countryside?
That's right!
There are a lot of people leaving for the city but
People moving here are pretty rare!
chomp
swing
Father was moved from the Tokyo Head Office to the Business Office
Because he was demoted.
silence
chew
Ahh.
From the big city to a rural countryside; it must have been a big and inconvenient change too
W-Well how about there! It must have been hard for your mum right
ha ha ha
What— So your dad made some blunder, did he?!
chomp
swing
Mum...

silence
She passed away three years ago
...So it's just you and your father?
How about siblings?
Argh!
Geez! Saw so how stupid College be!
I forgot--- Dorama's on today...
Switch on
Ah...
That's right, but...
They divorced ages ago. So before mum died, it was just her and me, the two of us
So I guess the number of people hasn't changed
SHOCK
Gap

grab
tap
?
tap
Stand up
You'll do.
sob sob
You'll do very well indeed.
That's it then—! We've decided all the details! You'll graduate from college and then become closer.
Eeh...
No thanks
A child or two with Sawako should liven things up, I guarantee it!
Go for it!
Leave it to me!!!
I have confidence!

If he's going to be fast, might as well go fast all the way!
Oh, that'll be great~~! When shall we exchange retro thai gifts?
How's a homely, traditional, countryside wedding sound?
Flicker
Swish
Ah...

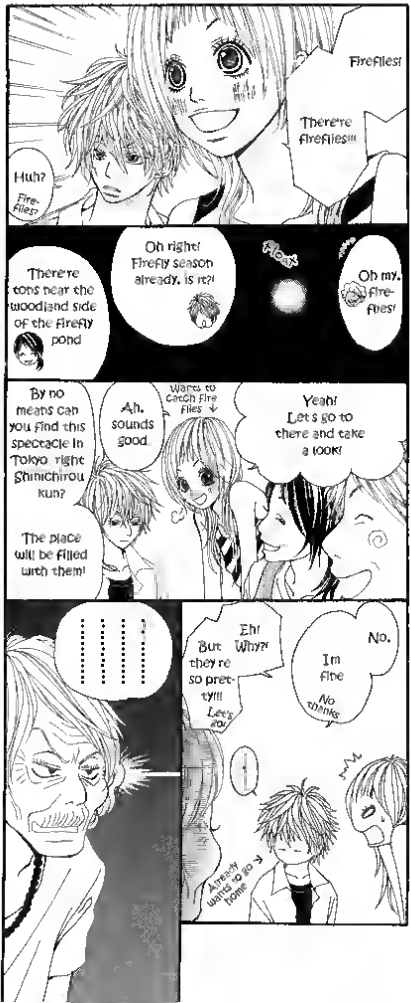
すぃみんについて。

何をかいたらいーのか
よくわからないしネタもないので、日常のコトとか
語ろうとおもいます。

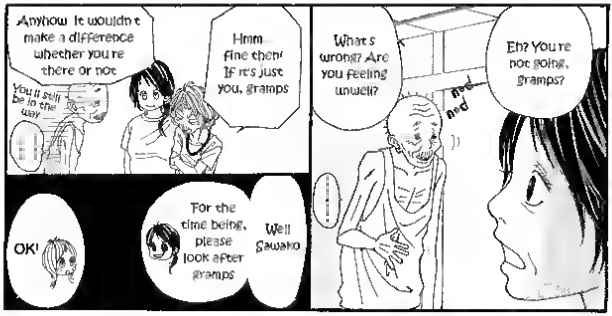
私は スゴイ よくねます。
ありえないくらい ねます。
だいたい 10へ15時間
くらい ねています。
完全に ねすぎです。
これだけ ねても、まだ
ネムかったりして 困ります。
低血圧らしいので 起きてからも 頭が ボ〜ー
っとしていて 2.3時間は
覚醒できません。
人生の 半分以上が
ムダになってるよーな、
そんな気分に おそわれてしまいます。

しかし メセ前は
異常に元気で ほとんど
ねなくても全然OK☆
1週間くらいは 仮眠
とどさくイケるんです。

つづく→



Wha—?!! Why—?
While you two stay here!!!
We'll slowly take our time!
ho
ho
Why don't the rest of us go there.
Well then
It'll be just the two of you
Make sure you steadily "Oto!"
yank
Wah!
"OTO?"
chatter
You want to go out when we have a guest?
IT'LL BE FINE!
Well, what about Shinichirou kun?
It'll be fine!
chatter
Come, now! Quickly, let's go!


Anyhow, it wouldn't make a difference whether you're there or not
You'll still be in the way
Hmm... fine then! If it's just you, gramps
What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?
Eh? You're not going, gramps?
And and
OK!
For the time being, please look after gramps
Well Sawako

What are you saying, you stupid grandchild?!!
Huh—?
What does "oco" mean?
Granny, wait!

"Share a bed...??"
VROOM
MOTHER TONGUE 2 (6TH GRADE)
I'm telling you to go "share a bed" with that youngster!
Don't make me say it more bluntly
See you!

JAPANESE PICTIONARY CHIGI - CHIKU
CHIGIRU
1. TO TIE RELATIONS BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE
2. TO COPULATE/MATE
FLIP
flipping
dictionary
TABOOM
TO MATE??!
clack
Well...

Come to think of it...
Dating and getting married...
Would I really even lead to that...!!!
I haven't thought that far yet...
W-With Ogata...?!
—!
IMPOS-SIBLE!
GAVG
GAVG
Great

Are you a delicon-scholarship boy?
What are you doing?
ACK!
No.
More im-portantly, why are you carrying your bag?!
No-thing!!!
W-well,
I'm going home.
EH?!
.....
W-W-Wait! Don't go back!!!
No way!
...
Why are you hiding?
Whaever.
Sorry for the intrusi-on—
AHHHH...
Bang
S,
Bang

!!
DASH
DASH
What was that?
It came from the prayer room. Let's go see!
*THE PRAYER ROOM IS WHERE THE FIGURE OF BUDDHA IS KEPT.
Gramps!!!

What happened?
Osaka—
It's Gramps he—!
WHEEZE WHEEZE
What if the doctor can't come—
That's right, an ambulance!
—No! It'll take around an hour to get here!
W-What do I do? I don't have a car!
Ack
What should we do?
What do we do? Gramps is—!
CALM DOWN!

Someone living nearby like a vet or a nurse...
Do you know anyone from the neighborhood who has a medical license?
Calm down and think
—Ahh!
Takemura san's grandfather who lives next door!
He's retired now, but he used to be the village doctor!
In a village like this, neighbors live far apart.
I'll call him here—
WAIT!
It's better to take him there instead
fifts

We'll reach the doctor soon!
Grramps!
Everything will be alright!

I've laid him down on the futon; the doctors examining him now
They also informed your family and called them here.
Gramps...
You know...
I... I see.

He's elderly but
Lately, he hasn't filled it much...
But...
.....
Sawako, look after your gramps.
It's...
It's all my fault!

Even though gramps wasn't in a good condition
I was asked to take care of him,
And I didn't take it seriously,
What should I do?
What if gramps dies? What do I do?

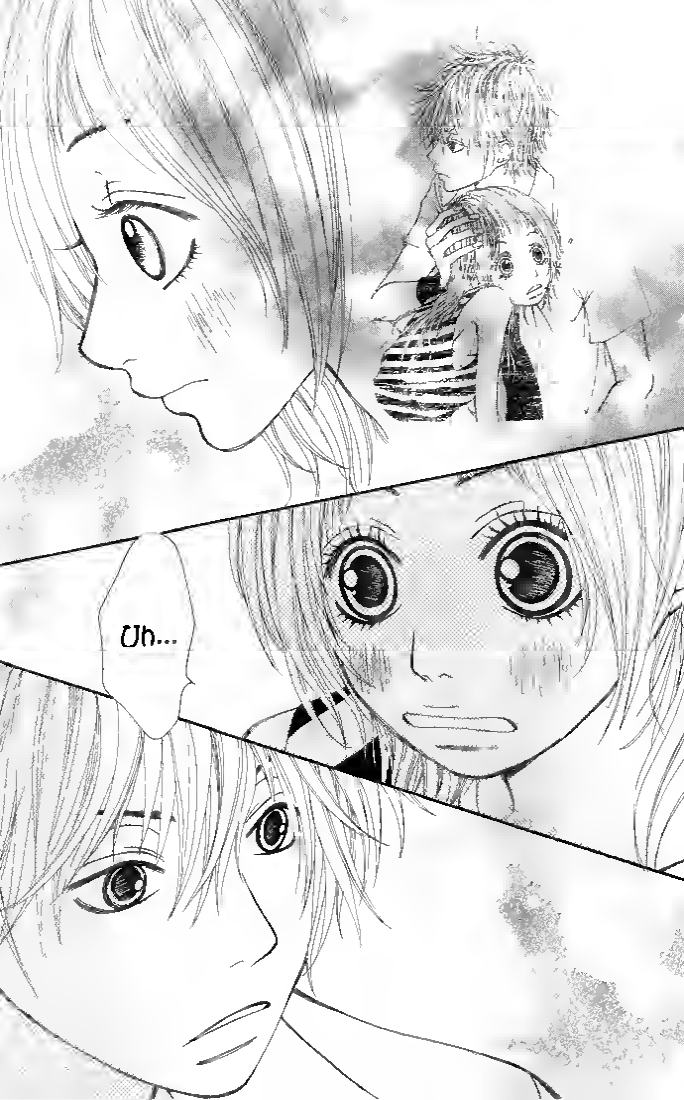
Don't make such a ruckus
It's hurting my ears.
There's no way he'd easily die
Your family seems to be as tough as pests.
So, you don't need to panic.
Because he won't die
Gramps, we'll reach the doctor soon!

Right?
Yeah...

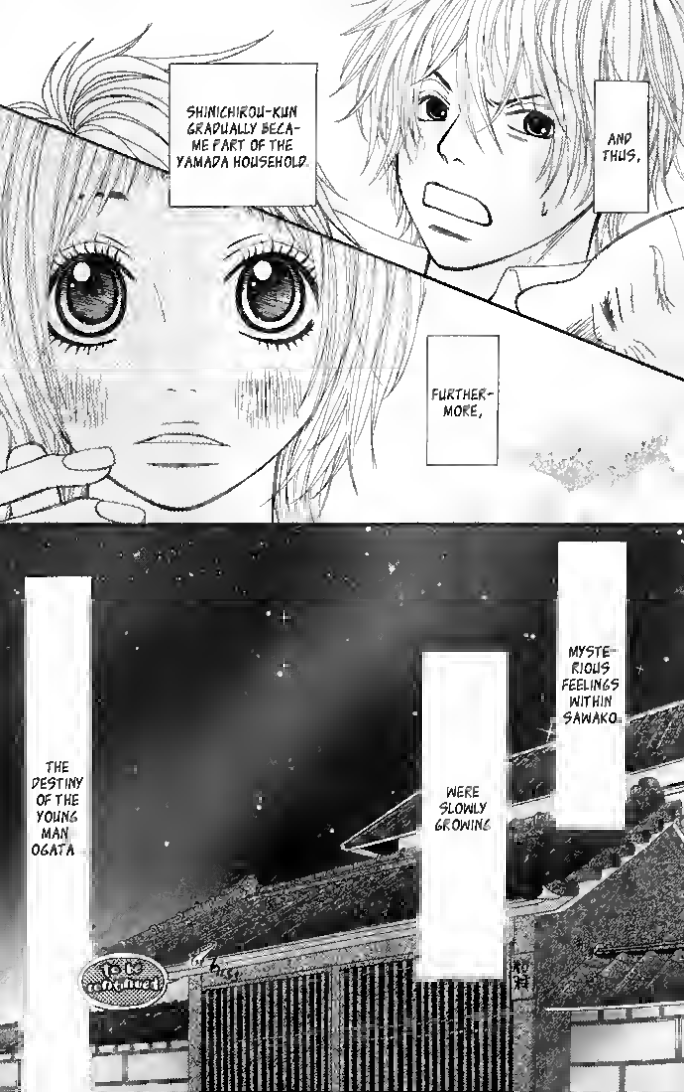
Buzz
Buzz
pop
What's that noise?
.....?
Sawako, Gramps collapsed?!
Huh!
Granny!
How is he? How is Grandpa? Is he alright?
Gr-
Grand-pa!!!
VROOM
screech
!
AHHHHH
running
running
running
Well well
Welcome back
tap
tap
There must have been many fireflies eh?

Here.
How is Gramps?
Takemura-sensei! What's with the mood!
If you mean Matsukichi san
You look fine, Grandpa!
!?
!?
Gramps?!
Because your throat was blocked by daifuku?!
!!
So, you collapsed...
Correct
ha ha ha
Was the vacuum cleaner sucking up the daifuku?
The popping sound
So the noise we heard earlier,
You were eating the offerings!
Gramps!!!
IDIOT FOOL!!
Huh?
Disease Name Chestnut Daifuku*
Infection route Household Buddhist Altar Offerings
*DAIFUKU IS A STUFFED RICE CAKE WITH SWEET BEAN JAM

However silly the rea son—such as being hungry to the point of death ...
But you see,
DAD!
!!!
What are you saying!
bang
Don't say that out loud! But yes, you're right.
It sucks being in this for real...
Sayako's dad
You were enticed by the delicious smell of the side dishes (i.e. the daifuku) and became hungry?
Refer to the dinner scene
Ah, it's fine.
!
Right, Sayako-chan?
Be thankful to the youngster who carried him here.
?
What is it?


Uh...

You're such a dependable fellow!
Thanks, Shinichirou-kun~!
Sho
ve
ACK
W-Wait~!
We're liking you more and more!!!
Hurry up and become our son in law!!
Huh?!
.....
Manga Boss

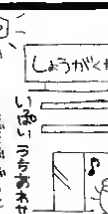

SHINICHIROU-KUN GRADUALLY BECAME PART OF THE YAMADA HOUSEHOLD.
AND THUS,
FURTHERMORE,
THE DESTINY OF THE YOUNG MAN OGATA
WERE SLOWLY GROWING
MYSTERIOUS FEELINGS WITHIN SAWAKO.
to be continued

VS 孤独

連載中、10日くらい東京に滞在していたのですが

そのトキの思い出パネルでも。

編集部から徒歩1~2分のところに滞在。



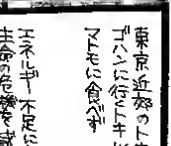
いいロケーションであせる気持ちを抑えつつ

と意気込んでいたのですが

数日後――

東京近郊のトキダキとゴハンに行くトキ以外アトモに食べず

エネルギー不足による生命の危機を感じたトキは"温泉たまご"で命をつなぐいたのであった。



近所のスーパーで4コ入り。(うまイよ)

さみしがりやの自覚はあったけど、まさかここまで孤独に弱いとは

2回も泊まりに来てくれたいとうさんあなたのおかげで生きのびたと言っても過言ではありません アリがとう

いつかは上京したとおもっていうのにこのザマでは……!!

でもゼッタイ上京はする!!!

誰か孤独にうかつ術をおしえて下さい。

おしまい

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